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LETTER DATED 2 DECEMBER 1998 FROM THE PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF THE DEMOCRATIC PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF KOREA TO THE UNITED NATIONS ADDRESSED TO THE PRESIDENT OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL

I have the honour to transmit herewith the text of the statement of the spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea dated 2 December Juche 87 (1998) concerning the recent move of the United States of America to drive the situation on the Korean peninsula to the brink of war.

I should be grateful if you would have the present letter and its annex circulated as a document of the Security Council.

(Signed) Li Hyong Chol
Ambassador
Permanent Representative

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Annex

Statement of the spokesman for the General Staff of the Korean People's Army of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea on 2 December Juche 87 (1998)

The United States of America has recently gone beyond the danger line in their arrogant aggressive attempts to stifle the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with military strength.

According to a report, United States President Bill Clinton, during his visit to south Korea, unusually made a final checkup of the preparedness of the units of the United States aggressive forces and the readiness of its flying corps for sorties, and blared that the United States is determined and able to do anything in defence of its citizens and allied nations, raising the nuclear issue. The south Korean puppet authority, who has prolonged his remaining days with flunkeyism and obedience, is trying to curry favour with his master, obtrusively crying that the north must accept demands for inspections of an underground facility. The Japanese reactionaries who slandered the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, branding its launch of an artificial satellite as that of a ballistic missile, have also raised their heads again.

Synchronized with this, the United States conservative hard-liners blared that if inspections of the underground facilities of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea failed to be realized, they would break up the Democratic People's Republic of Korea-United States Agreed Framework and take "determined counteraction". This is, in essence, like a declaration of war in that they will not hesitate to wage a war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

What cannot be overlooked is the fact that publications of a third country have openly carried reports that the United States military has completed a new war plan for the invasion of north Korea and the gist of "Operation Plan 5027", a plan for a second Korean War of aggression allegedly to retaliate against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea for the United States defeat in the past Korean War.

We have learned through these publications that "Operation Plan 5027" envisages waging the second Korean War against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in five stages.

The first stage is a "control" stage. Under the pretext of "controlling" the actions of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, the United States is to amass its aggressive forces in and around south Korea and impose full-scale sanctions upon the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by blocking its skies, seas and border.

In this sense, it can be said that the operation of this stage is already being carried out in fact.

The second stage is the "stage of strikes for neutralization" which aims to "neutralize" the Democratic People's Republic of Korea by making long-term

aerial strikes at the whole northern half of Korea with large numbers of field artillery pieces, planes and cruise-guided weapons.

To execute the operation of this stage, the United States has stealthily deployed naval and air forces, including flying corps, around the Democratic People's Republic of Korea in various forms and ways and mastered methods of striking, staging military training and exercises under various names.

The third stage is the "stage of ground offensive operation". Envisaged in it are comprehensive ground offensive operations that combine large-scale operations for landing on the east and west coasts of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea with airplane and helicopter-borne paratrooper operations and special commando operations. Through these operations, the United States plans to encircle Pyongyang, the heart of the Korean revolution, and "occupy" the Democratic People's Republic of Korea as far as the River Chongchon.

The fourth stage is the "stage of expanding successes in war". It envisages occupation of the whole area north of the River Chongchon in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The fifth stage is the "stage of concluding war", in which the United States plans to achieve "Korea's unification based on the liberal democratic system".

In order to put this operational plan into practice, the United States will deploy over 545,000 United States soldiers, the 630,000-strong army of south Korea and ultra-modern hardware and large-scale means of striking, including five to seven aircraft carrier flotillas, F-117 and F-111 Stealth fighter bombers and nuclear-capable B-1, B-2 and B-52 strategic bombers.

The plan comprises three methods of unleashing an all-out war: the first being to mount a strike at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea while imposing sanctions upon it over the nuclear issue and human rights problems; the second being to make a "surgical operation-style strike" at the "suspected nuclear facilities" in the Democratic People's Republic of Korea; and the third being to make a pre-emptive strike at the Democratic People's Republic of Korea under the pretext of an aggravated situation while continuing to render it strained.

Only recently, the United States has dispatched to south Korea senior officials of the United States Defense Department, including the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, the Commander of the United States Pacific Forces, unit commanders of the three services, commanders of the 1st and 3rd Army Corps, the Commander of the Seventh Fleet, commanders of the 1st and 3rd Marine Expeditionary Corps and other commanders who are expected to be hurled into the Korean front, one after another, to examine on the spot, the feasibility of the operational plan. At the same time, it has stepped up preparations for war against the Democratic People's Republic of Korea through "RSOI 98", "Ulji Focus Lens 98", "Foal Eagle 98" and other joint military exercises.

Nowadays, the United States is loudly crying out that tensions have been heightened owing to the underground nuclear facility of the Democratic People's Republic of Korea and its launch of an artificial satellite.

What they seek in this is to find a pretext to ignite the train of war according to "Operation Plan 5027".

It is clear why the United States has begun executing "Operation Plan 5027", throwing away the mask of "appeasement" and "engagement" which it had worn for some time. Unable to destroy our socialist system with its "isolation and suffocation strategy" and "appeasement strategy" in order to induce us to reform and open up, the United States has adopted a reckless adventure, losing all reason.

From the outset, our revolutionary armed forces have expected little from the "appeasement policy of the United States" which seeks to demolish our socialist system. In particular, they have followed with sharp vigilance the behaviour of the United States, the other warring party, which has turned away from the general officer-level meeting proposed by the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

The prevailing situation proves that the sharp vigilance and revolutionary position of our revolutionary armed forces are absolutely reasonable.

To answer fire with fire is a character of our revolutionary army and its unique mode of counteraction.

Although the United States intends to dispirit somebody by setting afloat its reckless operational plan, it is a foolish dream.

We have our own operational plan. The so-called "surgical operation-style strike" and "pre-emptive strike" are by no means an exclusive option of the United States. The mode of attack is not a monopoly of the United States either.

It must be made clear that there is no limit to the reach of our people's army and that on this planet there is no room for escape.

It must also be realized that the target of our strike in the war is not only the United States aggressive forces which chiefly execute "Operation Plan 5027", but also the south Korean authorities who are willing to serve as their shield, Japan and all others that offer bases or act as servants behind the scenes.

We do not want a war. But we will not avoid a war. Once a war is imposed, we will never miss the opportunity.

Now that the United States of America has thrown off the mask of "dialogue and negotiation" and is bringing the situation to the brink of war, we solemnly declare with the dignity of Juche Korea that our revolutionary armed forces will never pardon the challenge of the United States aggressive forces but answer it with an annihilating blow.

The aggressors will never escape the fate of forlorn wandering spirits.